

Cattle and Calves

Utah cattlemen had a total of 910,000 cattle and calves on farms and ranches January 1, 2000, an increase of 20,000 head from January 1, 1999. Beef cows, at 355,000 head, were up 20,000 head from 1999. Milk cows, at 95,000 head, remained the same as January 1, 1999. Beef cow replacement heifers weighing 500 pounds or more were estimated at 70,000 head, 2,000 less than the January 1, 1999 number. Milk cow replacements totaled 46,000 head compared with 43,000 head in 1999. Other heifers, at 74,000 head, increased 4,000 head from the previous year's level. Steers 500 pounds and over totaled 112,000 head, 8,000 less than January 1, 1999. Bulls, at 23,000 head, increased 1,000 head from the 1999 level. Calves weighing less than 500 pounds were estimated at 135,000 head, 2,000 head more than the January 1, 1999 level.

Utah's 1999 calf crop totaled 390,000 head, up 2.6 percent from the 1998 level.

Cattle and calves on full feed for slaughter totaled 35,000 head January 1, 2000, a decrease of 5,000 head from January 1, 1999.

Value per head of all cattle and calves averaged

\$660.00 January 1, 2000 compared with \$590.00 per head on January 1, 1999. Total inventory was valued at \$600.6 million, up 14 percent from 1999.

Utah operations with cattle and calves in 1999 totaled 7,900, a decrease of 100 farms from 1998. The breakdown by size group was as follows: 4,500 operations with 1 to 49 head; 1,200 with 50 to 99 head; 1,800 with 100 to 499 head; 270 with 500 to 999 head; and 130 with 1,000 head or more. Operations with more than 500 head accounted for 42 percent of the Utah cattle inventory as did those with 100 to 499 head.

Beef production during 1999 totaled 390.1 million pounds, up 4.7 percent from the previous year. Marketings during the year totaled 464 million pounds, down 1.7 percent from 1998.

Cash receipts for 1999 totaled \$314.2 million, up 3.2 percent from the previous year. Price of cattle averaged \$66.10 per hundredweight (cwt), up \$3.10 from 1998. The 1999 average slaughter cow price, at \$36.80 per cwt compares with \$34.00 in 1998. The 1999 steer and heifer price at \$68.30 per cwt was \$3.30 above 1998. The average price for calves less than 500 pounds during 1999 was \$86.40 per cwt, up \$5.40 from 1998.

